

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and in view of the present amendment, is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-17, 20-26 and 28-34 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3, 18, 19, 27 and 35-37 are canceled and claims 4-6, 8, 13, 20-24, 28, 29, 31 and 33 are amended by the present amendment.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-3, 18, 19, 27 and 35-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent number 6,622,143 to Okada. Claims 1-3, 18, 19, 27 and 35-37 are canceled without prejudice, and it is respectfully submitted this rejection is moot.

II. Rejection for Non-Statutory Double Patenting

Claims 1-37 were rejected for non-statutory double patenting in view of Okada. A Terminal Disclaimer under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.321(b) and (c) is filed herewith to disclaim the terminal portion of the present application, which is assigned to the same assignee as Okada, in light of the comments noted in the outstanding Office Action.

III. Amendments to the Claims and Drawings

In addition, claims 4-6, 8 and 13 are amended in independent form including the features of canceled claim 3; claim 20 is amended in independent form including the features of canceled claim 19; claims 21-24 are amended to depend from claim 20; and claims 28, 29, 31 and 33 are amended in independent form including the features of canceled claim 27. It is believed no new matter is added. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted claims 4-17, 20-26 and 28-34 are allowable over Okada.

Further, FIGS. 21A and 23 and claims 4-6, 8, 13, 20, 28, 29, 31 and 33 are amended to conform to standard patent practice to correct minor informalities. It is believed no new matter is added.

IV. Conclusion

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and it is earnestly solicited this application pass to issue.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 30, 2004

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